Seated Half Society Founded 2021

Half Crazy

Nov 2025
Issue No. 17

The Newsletter of the Seated Half Society

1873-1874 With Arrows and Motto

Imaged by Heritage Auctions, HA.com

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1874 With Arrows and Motto PCGS-66 CAC

Liberty Seated Collectors Club
Founded 1973
Liberty Seated Collectors Club
Uniting collectors of Liberty Seated coinage since 1973

Half Crazy

The Newsletter of the

Seated Half Society

Nov 2025, Issue #17

Current Membership - **42**

1873-S With Arrows PCGS-58

Seated Half Society has 42 Members!

In This Issue:

SHS President's Letter
- **Fourth Annual Gathering of the SHS**
- **Bill Bugert wins the Adna G. Wilde Award**
- **Guess the Die Variety Challenge**
- **Bill Bugert Request for Information**
- **Featured Variety The 1873-1874 With Arrows and Motto**
- **Feature Article: Rare 1877 Proof Liberty Seated Half Dollar– D. Osburn**

SHS President's Letter

Dennis Fortier, SHS President

You may have noticed that we just welcomed our 42nd member to the SHS recently. We blew right past 40 at the ANA and added a total of four new members since our last newsletter. Interest in attaining membership in the SHS is certainly very strong.

Concluding this years theme of type coins; in this issue we look at the 1873-1874 with Arrows and Motto half dollar. This one and a half year type issue is necessary for both the type collector and the series collector.

The 2025 ANA Convention in Oklahoma City was a huge success. The SHS held our Fourth Annual Gathering following the LSCC meeting. Nine members were in attendance, including two of our newest members that qualified at the convention.

Dennis Fortier accepted the Adna G. Wilde Award for Bill Bugert at the ANA convention. To quote the ANA awards coordinator "He's long overdue!" I'm sure Bill would love to hear from all of you congratulating him on receiving this prestigious award.

Dick Osburn provides some further information on the 1877 proof Liberty Seated Half Dollar in our Featured Article. Many thanks to Dick for taking the time to add something to our club newsletter.

Baltimore is just around the corner I hope to see some of you there.

Dennis Fortier
SHS President

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Again, if you believe you qualify for membership, please contact Verne Pitman or myself to schedule an audit of your collection. All LSCC members who qualify are welcome. We hope you will join our association and become a member of the Seated Half Society.

Dennis Fortier, SHS President
ricajun@msn.com

Verne Pitman SHS Vice-President
vwpitman@gmail.com

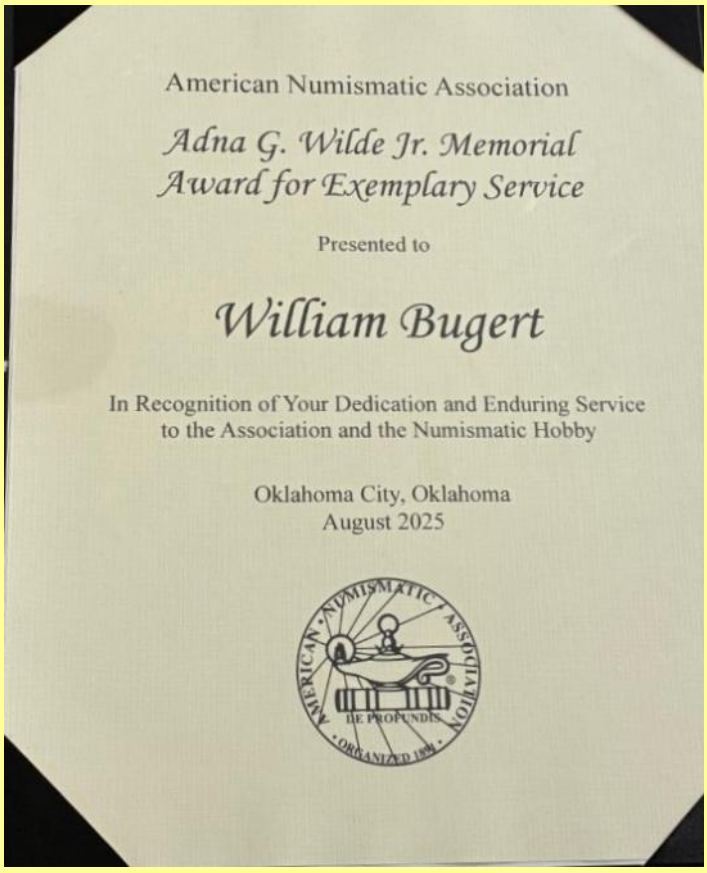
Also, see the club By-laws and Audit information, on the club webpage
http://lsccweb.org/SHS-homepage.shtml

The Fourth Annual Gathering of the Seated Half Society Oklahoma City 2025

Two new members were qualified at the ANA in Oklahoma City!

Bill Bugert

Receives the ANA Adna G. Wilde Memorial Award For Exemplary Service


American Numismatic Association

Adna G. Wilde Jr. Memorial Award for Exemplary Service

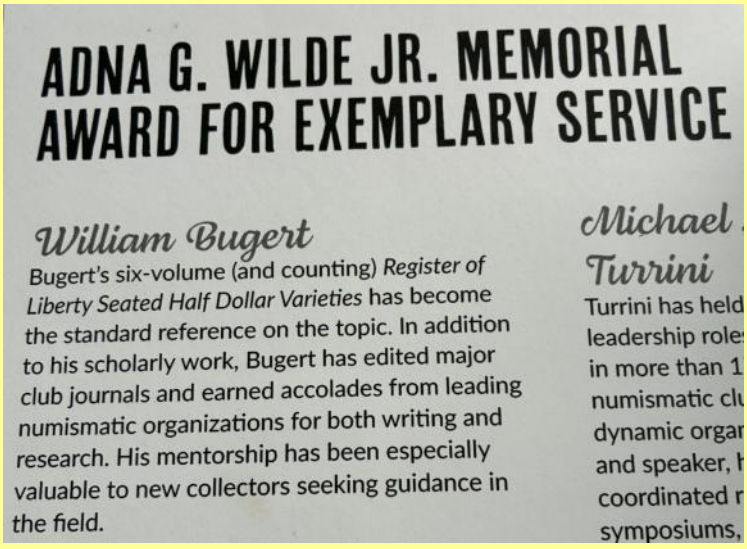
Presented to

William Bugert

In Recognition of Your Dedication and Enduring Service to the Association and the Numismatic Hobby

Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
August 2025

Dennis accepts for Bill


ADNA G. WILDE JR. MEMORIAL AWARD FOR EXEMPLARY SERVICE

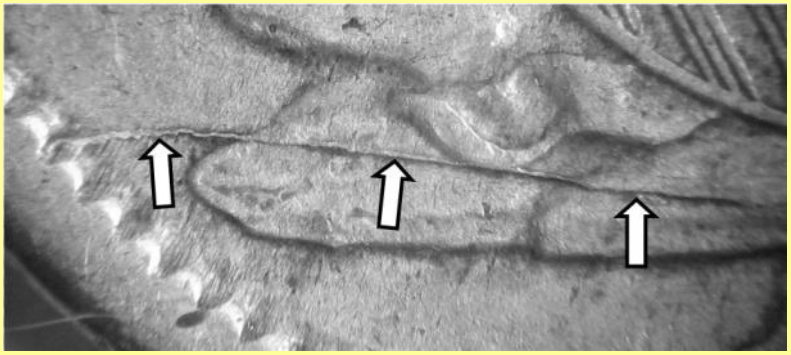
William Bugert

Bugert's six-volume (and counting) *Register of Liberty Seated Half Dollar Varieties* has become the standard reference on the topic. In addition to his scholarly work, Bugert has edited major club journals and earned accolades from leading numismatic organizations for both writing and research. His mentorship has been especially valuable to new collectors seeking guidance in the field.

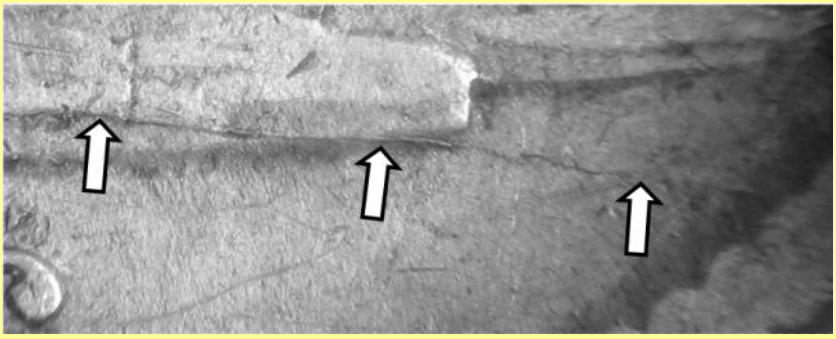
Michael Turrini

Turrini has held leadership role in more than 1 numismatic clu dynamic orgar and speaker, h coordinated r symposiums,

Can You Identify This Die Variety (challenge)



Looks Like I stumped everyone this time. It's the 1866-S WB-3
(Photos by Bill Bugert)



Here is the variety challenge for this issue. The 6 will help confine your search. Note the distinctive die crack through the D In D(OL). (Photos by John Frost)

Information Wanted!

By Bill Bugert

I am currently compiling information on examples of the 1849 WB-6 Dramatically Doubled Date and 1873 No Arrows Open 3 (both varieties) half dollars and am **seeking your assistance**. If you own either of these varieties and wish information on them included in my to-be-published Registers (similar to my 1878-S Register), please contact me at wb8cpy@earthlink.net. I am specifically looking for pedigree information, prices paid, and photographs. Please help!

To date and considering possible duplicate entries, I can account for approximately 38 different 1849 DDDs and 66 different 1873 NAOP3 half dollars. I believe there are others.

Date photos of these two major varieties are depicted below and detailed information is included in my books.

Bill is still looking for the 1873 No Arrows open 3, if you have one in your collection be sure to contact him.

Featured Variety
1873-1874 With Arrows and Motto

A favorite with collectors of all persuasions the 1873-1874 with Arrows and Motto variety was put into our collecting lore due to the Motto being added to the coinage in 1866, and Arrows used to denote an increase in the amount of silver in the coins beginning in 1873. The with Arrows and Motto variety provides three different Mints to search for, Philadelphia, Carson City, and San Francisco.

1873 is a fun and interesting year to collect with all the various varieties that have come to light. However, in this commentary we will focus on just the With Arrows for that year. The Coinage Act of 1873 became effective on April 1 of 1873. Sorry, April Fools Day is just a coincidence. April Fools Day actually dates back to the mid Sixteenth century (had to look that one up). Back to our knitting. By the time congress acted in 1873, coinage had been underway for three months. Hence we have No Arrows and With Arrows half dollars for that year.

Arrows were continued throughout 1874 and then discontinued on 1875. For Type collectors a less expensive option is the Philadelphia issues for those two years. However for the series collector the S and CC mints from 1873 and 1874 are a sought after goal. There is just one die variety for the 1873-S and four for the 1874-S. The No Arrows 1873-S half dollars are believed to have been melted with none known to date.

(cont next page)

Featured Variety
1873-1874 With Arrows and Motto (cont)

The Carson City 1873-CC With Arrows has six die varieties and the 1874-CC has three plus a collector favorite the 1874-CC WB-3a Railroad Track Reverse. Currently there are 35 Railroad Track Reverses known to Bill Bugert. Most are in low grade, however I have seen an MS-64.

The 1874-CC Railroad Track Reverse PCGS-6 CAC (Bill Bugert Photo)

1874 Large over Small Arrows PCGS-63

The 1874 Large over Small Arrows is a variety specialist favorite.

(cont next page)

Featured Variety
1873-1874 With Arrows and Motto (cont)

Additionally, there are Large and Small Arrows for the 1873-1874, and several different Mintmark sizes for the advanced collector. The 1873-CC has three die varieties with Small mintmark and Large Arrows, and three die varieties with Large mintmarks and Large Arrows. The 1874-CC all have small Mintmarks and Large Arrows.

The lone die variety known for the 1873-S has Large Arrows and a Minute Mintmark. In 1874 San Francisco offers more variety in Minmark sizes. There are three different sizes for the 1874-S, Small Wide, Medium Small, and Minute. All are Large Arrows

Small Wide Mintmark Medium Small Mintmark Minute Minmark

Further details can be found in Randy Wiley and Bill Bugert's books on the LSCC website. Happy hunting.

Featured Article

Rare 1877 Proof Liberty Seated Half Dollars

By Dick Osburn

Craig Sholley and John Dannreuther recently wrote an excellent article for the Gobrecht Journal on 1877 proof seated half varieties (reference 1). This article adds information to what was presented in that article and goes a little farther in identifying the rare 1877 proof die marriages (type 1 and transitional reverses). The following table identifies the die marriages currently known to me.

Die Mariage	Obverse Die	Reverse Die	Est Rarity	JD#
		Type 1 Reverse		
1	P1 Normal	PA	R-8	
2	P2 RPD	PA	R-6	JD-2
		Transi-nal Reerse		
3	P3*	PB	R-6	
4	P3*	PC Re-worked	R-8	JD-3

1877 proof die marriages with type 1 and transitional reverses

Featured Article (Cont)

The nomenclature I used to identify these dies is consistent with what I used in my Seated Dollar reference book (Reference 2). Obverse dies are identified by numbers, reverse dies by letters. The P in front of the identifier indicates that the die was first used to strike proofs. The asterisk by Obverse P3 is because I can't confirm without some level of uncertainty that die marriages 3 and 4 share the same obverse. I own examples of die marriages 1, 2, and 3, but I have only a picture of die marriage 4. The date positions that I note for my example of die marriage 3 and the pictures of die marriage 4 are identical. However, my coin shows a few microscopic die lines that I can't confirm in the pictures of die marriage 4, so it's still possible that they could be two different obverse dies with similar date positions. Sorting that out will have to wait until I'm able to personally examine an example of die marriage 4.

Note that I continued to designate the second reverse type as transitional, although reference 1 indicated that this may not be the correct nomenclature. I've called it transitional for as long as I can remember, and I do think that it represents a transition between the old hub and the improved hub, so until there's some agreement on what to call it I'm going to retain the old terminology.

The following paragraphs and photos will show how to attribute the four die marriages identified above.

Die Marriage 1

The photo below is my collection example of die marriage 1.

The only known example of Die Marriage 1

To my knowledge this coin is unique. I've never seen another example. I've had it in my collection for more than 25 years. I bought it from a Teletrade auction in the late 1990's. The date position is shown below.

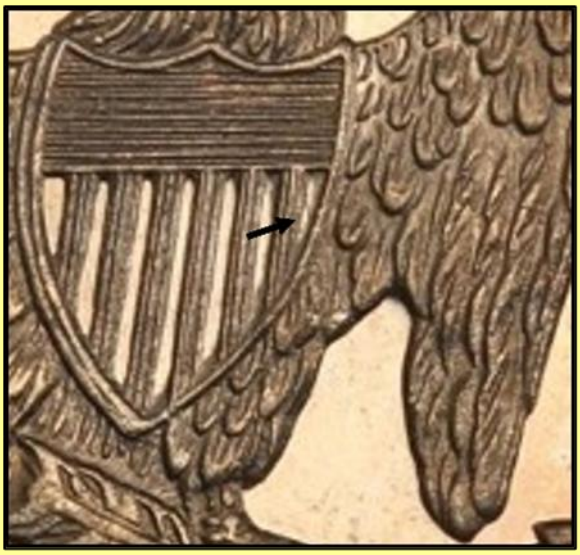
Obverse P1 – Date position

The date position is slightly different from die marriage 2, just a bit farther right, and very slightly higher. The date is almost completely level, whereas the date for Obverse P2 slants very slightly up. The date exhibits NO repunching below the 7's, which easily separates it from Obverse 2.

The reverse, which I've called PA, is one which was used for several ***with motto*** proof die marriages, both in 1877 and in a few other years. Its most notable marker is a tiny die line which slants down to the right in the right-most shield recess. This die line is shown in the photo below. It's usually easily seen, since most examples are high-grade. It might be difficult to see on a heavily circulated proof.

Featured Article (Cont)

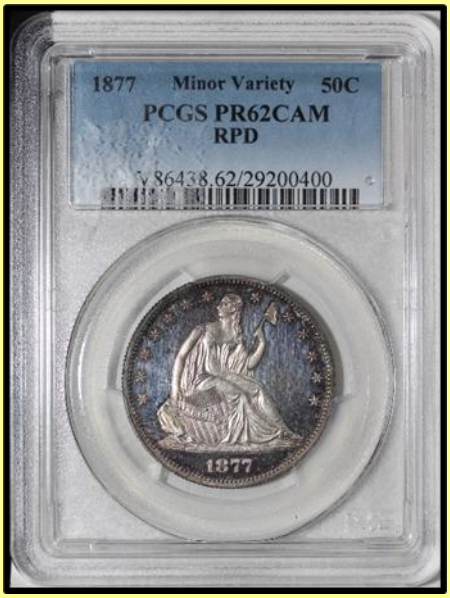
Obverse P1 – Date position



The die line which defines Reverse PA

Die Marriage 2

The photo below is my example of Die Marriage 2.



My collection example of Die Marriage 2

This die marriage is very rare. I know of 7 examples. I've had this one in my collection for about 20 years. During that time I've purchased two other higher grades, a PCGS PR65 and an NGC PR65, but I like this coin better than either of the higher graded examples. I sold the other two. The PCGS coin is in Randy Wiley's collection. The NGC coin was auctioned through Heritage in late 2025. The date position is shown in the photo below.

The date position is slightly different from die marriage 1 (Obverse P1), a little farther left, and very slightly lower. The date slants very slightly up, whereas the Obverse P1 date is virtually level. The date exhibits minor repunching below the tails of the 7's, indicated by the arrows in the photo. Although the date positions of all the obverse dies discussed in this article are very similar, the repunching on Obverse P2 should make for fairly easy attribution.

This obverse also exhibits a sinuous die line under the foot. I wasn't able to get a really sharp picture of this die line. The photo below is the best I could do. The arrows indicate the die line.

Featured Article (Cont)

Obverse P2 – Date position

Obverse P2 - Die line under the foot

The Die Marriage 2 reverse die is the same one used for Die Marriage 1, Reverse PA. The die line which makes it relatively easy to attribute is shown in the description of Die Marriage 1. It's usually easily seen, since most examples are high-grade. It might be difficult to see on a heavily circulated proof.

Die Marriage 3

The photo below is my example of Die Marriage 3

This die marriage is very rare, but less so than the previous two discussed. I've seen 15-20 examples, mostly low grades. That begs the question of whether this die marriage is really a proof issue. In my opinion it's a business strike, although PCGS didn't agree. I've had this coin in my collection for more than 30 years. I bought it from Julian Leidman as a choice uncirculated business strike at the Houston Money show in the early 1990's. An interesting side note – it was at this same show that I met Jim O'Donnell for the first time – that's a subject for a whole new article. I've never seen an example of this die marriage in a higher grade than this one. The date position is shown in the next photo. It's virtually identical to Obverse P2, but there's no repunching on the date, so it's easy to differentiate. It's just slightly lower than Obverse P1, and completely level.

My collection example of Die Marriage 3

The reverse of Die Marriage 3, Reverse PB, is the transitional reverse. In this improvement of the reverse hub the details of the leaves and buds, which had degraded over many years of use of the previous hub, were significantly strengthened. These characteristics, which define this reverse, are shown in the photo below.

Featured Article (Cont)

Obverse P3 – Date position

Obverse PB – Improved leaves

Die Marriage 4

Die Marriage 4 is the one with the hand-improved reverse letters that Craig Sholley and John Dannreuther described in reference 1. I don't own an example of this die marriage. The picture below is from PCGS and shows the coin that Craig and John described in detail in their article.

The only known example of Die Marriage 4

The picture above is from the PCGS photo of Die Marriage 4. You'll note that in the table which leads this article I identified this obverse as Obverse P3, the same one used for Die Marrage 3. I believe that this is true, but since I don't own an example of Die Marriage 4 I can't confirm it. The photo below shows a tiny die line above Miss Liberty's head that can be seen on my example of Die Marriage 3.

Die Marriage 4 – Date position

Obverse P3 – Die line above Miss Libery's head

Featured Article (Cont)

This die marriage is exceedingly rare. Only the single example pictured above has been confirmed. As with Die Marriage 3 I would question whether this coin is really a proof issue, or just a very proof-like business strike. I won't offer an opinion since I don't own an example.

The date position is shown in the next photo. It's virtually identical to Obverse P2, but there's no repunching on the date, so it's easy to differentiate. It's just slightly lower than Obverse P1, and completely level.

I can't confirm this die line on the PCGS picture of Die Marriage 4, but as you can see from the photo above the die line is very tiny and difficult to see. Without an example of Die Marriage 4 to examine in hand there's still some uncertainty about whether these dies are the same. My guess is that they are, and that's how I've catalogued them.

Reverse PC is well-documented in Reference 1, so I won't repeat that information here. It's clearly different from Reverse PB. My example of Die Marriage 3 shows none of the reworking that's described in Reference 1. Both reverse dies are the transitional type created from the re-worked reverse hub.

Photo Credits:

Obverse and reverse full photos: 1877 PCGS #42462608 PR62, courtesy of PCGS.

Die Marriage 1, slab photo, date and reverse die line: 1877 PCGS #30772072 PR64, from the Dick Osburn collection. Purchased from a Teletrade auction in the late 1990's.

Die Marriage 2, slab photo, date and die line under foot: 1877 PCGS #29200400 PR62 Cameo, from the Dick Osburn collection. Purchase record lost.

Die Marriage 3, slab photo, date and reverse leaves: 1877 PCGS #03807072 PR62, from the Dick Osburn collection. Purchased from Julian Leidman at the Houston Money Show in the early 1990's.

Die Marriage 4, PCGS record, and date: 1877 PCGS #42462608 PR62, courtesy of PCGS.

Obverse P3, die line over Miss Liberty's head: 1877 PCGS #03807072 PR62, from the Dick Osburn collection. Purchased from Julian Leidman at the Houston Money Show in the early 1990's.

Comments or suggestions for future articles are always welcomed. Also feel free to contact me if you have questions or comments. I'm always glad to try to help. My contact information:

Dick Osburn, 713-875-5860, dickosburn@comcast.net.

References:

Craig Sholley and John Dannreuther, Two Rare 1877 Proof Seated Half Varieties (And Two Other Very Surprising Finds), The Gobrecht Journal, Volume 50.2, Summer 2024, Issue No. 150.

Dick Osburn and Brian Cushing, Liberty Seated Dollars, A Register of Die Varieties, 1ST Edition, self-published in January, 2018.

End

All photos unless otherwise stated are from Heritage coin auctions

(100 points needed for membership in the Seated Half Society, see our webpage for details)

http://lsccweb.org/SHS-homepage.shtml

Request for Content

Any publication is only as good as the content it receives from its members. Articles, stories and photos are always welcome and encouraged! Please submit to the SHS Editor, Dennis Fortier at: **ricajun@msn.com**

Again, if you believe you qualify for membership, please contact Verne Pitman or myself to schedule an audit of your collection. All who qualify are welcome! We hope you will join our association and become a founding member of the Seated Half Society.

Dennis Fortier
SHS President
ricajun@msn.com

Verne Pitman
Vice-President
vwpitman@gmail.com